



FAUQUIER COUNTY

OFFICE OF ADULT COURT SERVICES

Annual Report
FY2016



Giving Back: ACS in the Community

Adult Court Services has a long and proud history of giving back to the community. We continued our tradition this year through community events and volunteer opportunities.

In September, we partnered with our neighbors in the Emergency Management Department to host the county's annual Working Together Picnic. It is one of the larger events for county employees and raises food for the local food pantry. This year we barbequed for over 300 employees who donated 1,343 pounds of food to the Fauquier Community Food Bank. This event has evolved over the years and county departments have challenged each other to increase their food donations.

As part of the national annual Earth Day event, ACS hosted 25 county employees for a day of tree planting.

This year we partnered with John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation and planted approximately 175 trees along a local stream. This planting will help filter runoff, shade the stream and provide corridors for wildlife to travel. It was hard work but a really great opportunity for networking among colleagues and other departments. Employees from Human Resources, Procurement, Sheriff's Office and Adult Court Services participated. It was the largest turnout for our annual Earth Day event.

ACS staff also routinely volunteer their time by serving on various community boards and committees. Court Services Officers Hana Field and Taylor Villaseñor currently sit on the county's CADRE board which addresses substance abuse issues among our youth population. They were recently certified in Crisis Intervention along

with Court Services Officer, Alisa Hilliard. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is part of a broader state-wide initiative to better equip law enforcement and community corrections professionals with the proper techniques to deal with those who suffer from mental illness. Holly Burriss and Stefanie Spicer serve on the county's Working Together Committee which organizes several events throughout the year to raise money and supplies for employees and citizens that have fallen on hard times.

Many of our staff participate in state-wide committees to advance our profession. Senior Court Services Officer, Rebecca James is an active member of the Pretrial Advisory Committee. She is a certified trainer for new pretrial professionals entering the field. We are proud of the work our staff does to enhance our community.



County employees raised over 1,300 pounds of food for donation



ACS staff prepare for the annual Earth Day event



County employees planted over 175 tree seedlings to prevent soil erosion and stream runoff

ACS Litter Control Program: Education and Community Partnerships

In the ten years since the ACS Litter Control Program was implemented, we have used court-ordered community service labor to collect hundreds of tons of litter and other debris from the county's roadways, streams and watershed. In fiscal year 2016, 322 community service workers completed 2,400 hours of work, collecting over sixty tons of litter. In the process of beautifying the County, we have also started a robust litter education series and formed numerous community partnerships which have further expanded the scope of the Litter Control Program.

In the past few years, our litter control education program has become a staple in our school system's Ecology curriculum. The goal of our education component is to prevent littering before it starts. Our partners in the Environmental Services Department are also there to stress the importance of recycling. We have been able to reach out to over 750 students in Fauquier's elementary, middle and high schools. The program is interactive and audience members are always surprised to see some of our "treasures" we collect while on the road. We know we are making an

impact, as students often follow up with letters of thanks and praise for the hard work the litter control program is doing.

As our presence in the community has increased, we have created partnerships with several non-profit agencies, which have been able to utilize the litter control program for other important community initiatives. The Fauquier County Fair Board has been utilizing our services for many years to keep the fairgrounds clean during their annual event. Our workers complete tasks such as fair set up, take down and emptying trash and recycle bins. Last year the fair was attended by over 10,000 visitors in one weekend. We also support similar events in the county such as the Delaplane Strawberry Festival.

Last year we partnered with the Fauquier Trails Coalition and the Parks and Recreation Department to begin a trail clearing project that will pave the way for future walking trails in the county. Community service workers spent much of last summer clearing a path for the future Warrenton Greenway extension and Whites Mill Trail located on Route 29. We have also provided support

to our friends at the Fauquier Airport. Last year's heavy rainfall made grass cutting at the airport an ongoing task. We spent over 700 man hours trying to keep the area mowed for airport patrons.

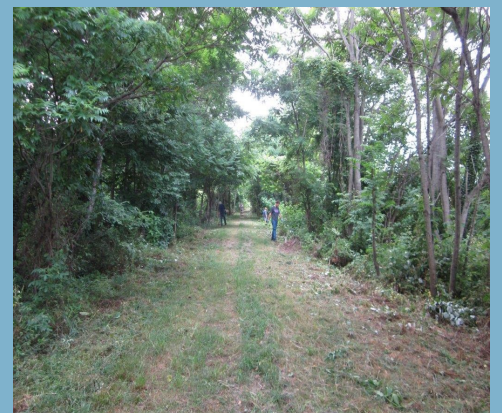
The George Mason Enterprise business incubator recently expanded their reach to include a location here in Fauquier County. The Litter Control Program assisted them with their office setup and continues to provide support for maintenance and other functions as needed. For the past several years, we have been working with the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation Agency to provide support for their tree planting initiative. In 2016, community service workers planted over 600 tree seedlings that will eventually protect local streams from runoff and erosion.

We are proud of the evolution of our Litter Control Program. We intend to continue our education series and form additional partnerships with local community organizations in the future. The program allows our offenders to give back to the community and provides them with a sense of accomplishment for their work.

Mr. Ripple,
Thank You for coming to our school! I find the work that you do very interesting! giving a people a second chance while cleaning the earth! Thank You again

Dear Mr. Ripple,
Thank you for taking the time to explain to us how important not littering is. I didn't know so many people littered. I will not litter when I get older because I don't want to hurt the environment.

Students express their gratitude for the Litter Control Education Program



Community service workers clear a half mile stretch for the Warrenton Greenway extension



ACS Implements New Technology Resources for Clients, Citizens and Staff

Technology has become more accessible and easier to use each and every year. Recently, Adult Court Services implemented several new technological resources for our clients, citizens and staff. Our new client resource portal was introduced to help our customers use technology, automation and the internet for several purposes including assessments and other resources. Many of our offender assessment tools are now digital and can be accessed through the internet. This allows our clients to take these assessments discretely, resulting in more honest and thorough results. The resource portal is also a place for clients to research job listings, food and shelter options, as well as substance and alcohol abuse programs. It has been a welcomed addition for our customers that cannot access technology from their homes. Our new job board is on display in the client waiting area and

is updated by staff biweekly. Clients are able to request copies of the job announcements to research further and several have reported being hired as a result of the job board.

We recently streamlined our litter reporting system. Citizens can request litter pickup from court-ordered community service workers by accessing our online complaint form. Once the form is filled out and submitted, it is routed directly to the Litter Control Officer for cleanup. After the area is addressed, the citizen is notified by phone or email. We have received many compliments from county residents about our online litter reporting system.

We have also installed "Smart TV" technology to the employee conference room. Staff is now able to take advantage of a variety of trainings and webinars only accessible through the internet.

These web-based trainings save the department time and money as staff are not required to travel long distances for certain trainings. The Smart TV can also be used for hosting meetings and conferences. These are just a few ways we have been using technology to enhance our client, citizen and staff resources.



The resource portal assists clients with assessments and other online tools related to community corrections

Pretrial, Probation Supervision Week: Recognizing Staff for Their Dedication

In July we honored our staff and colleagues during the annual Pretrial, Probation, Parole and Supervision Officers week as proclaimed by Governor Terry McAuliffe. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the work of community corrections professionals both locally and state-wide.

Our colleagues from the juvenile and state probation offices joined us for an afternoon of food and networking. Door prizes were raffled off and we were treated to homemade, hand cranked ice cream by Chief Mike Spory. We were excited to have members of County Administration and the Board of Supervisors join us as well. Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel presented the staff with a resolution from the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors that acknowledged the important work performed by employees of all three community corrections departments.



Left to Right: Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel (Marshall District), ACS Director Tom Pavelko, Deputy County Administrator Katie Heritage, Chief Mike Spory, Chief Elaine Lassiter and County Administrator Paul McCulla



Staff News

We are happy to announce the hiring of new staff and celebrate the accomplishments of our veteran employees. Court Services Officer, Donald Aufforth comes to us from our sister agency in Winchester. He has been in the community corrections field for six years and specializes in the supervision of gang related cases. Court Services Aide, Sabrina Knefel joined the team after serving as a police officer for several years in Fairfax County. Sabrina is bilingual and handles all new probation intake appointments, as well as translating for our Spanish speaking population. Court Services Officer, Alisa Hilliard recently transitioned into a full-time role within the department. Alisa is responsible for supervising and coordinating our Victim Impact

Panel program. Court Services Officer, Stefanie Spicer recently transferred into our Pretrial Department after several years in local probation.

This year we celebrate several accomplishments by some of our staff members. Senior Pretrial Officer, Rebecca James was acknowledged by the Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association for meritorious service in the field of pretrial services. Rebecca was also accepted into the Leadership Fauquier program. Leadership Fauquier is a premier group that equips and connects future leaders in the County. Court Services Officers Alisa Hilliard, Hana Field and Taylor Villaseñor were recently certified in

Crisis Intervention Training. We are proud to have such committed professionals on our team.



Senior Pretrial Officer, Rebecca James receives the Meritorious Service award

Pretrial Services: Risk Based Recommendations and Supervision

In recent years, our Pretrial Services Department has adopted Virginia's state-wide assessment tool known as "Praxis". Praxis is a risk-based template for pretrial investigators that guides the appropriate release recommendation and special conditions of bail. Among many factors, it weighs the nature of the most serious charge and past criminal history to determine a defendant's risk of success if released on pretrial supervision. Evidence-based research reveals that increased interventions directed toward offenders with a moderate to high

risk will result in better outcomes for both the defendant, the community and the judicial system. In addition to guiding release recommendations, Praxis has helped Pretrial Services implement differential supervision levels. These levels of supervision, based on risk, improve pretrial outcomes and ensure the best utilization of staff resources.

The Praxis assessment tool has been revalidated as a race and gender neutral pretrial risk assessment by nationwide pretrial experts.

Continued support from our stakeholders and fellow criminal justice agencies allowed us to successfully implement the Praxis. Our department strives to better serve our community and local judicial system with release and evidence-based decision making along with differential supervision. This summer, our department will partner again with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to train other pretrial agencies statewide on the Praxis.



Thomas S. Pavelko
Director

"Effective Alternatives for the Courts and Community"

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